10/591522 IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 SEP 2006

Customer No. 22,852 Attorney Docket No. 09707.0013

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned)
) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned)
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and cited in the international search report. A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 and are in a non-English language: 1. Japanese patent publication no. 2000-024454. An English language translation of this document is enclosed.

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- Japanese patent publication no. 01-115432. An English language
 Abstract of this document is enclosed.
- Japanese patent publication no. 60-172334. An English language
 Abstract of this document is enclosed.
- 4. Japanese patent publication no. 08-010552. An English language Abstract of this document is enclosed.
- 5. Japanese patent publication no. 10-047598. An English language translation of this document is enclosed.
- 6. Japanese patent publication no. 2000-317302. The relevance of this document is discussed at pages 1-2 and 19 of the specification of the present application.
- 7. Japanese patent publication no. 08-12314. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 20 of the specification of the present application.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or the translation of non-English documents 1-5 above, enclosed is an English-language international search report from the Japanese Patent Office in the PCT international application, from which this national phase U.S. application is derived, citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 1, 2006

David W. Hill Reg. No. 28,220

Enclosures DWH/FPD/blc

ERNEST F. CHAPMAN Reg. No. 25,961

IAPO Rec'd Pr Complete if Known IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Application Number Not Yet Assigned INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date September 1, 2006 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Yoshio HIRANO Art Unit Not Yet Assigned (Use as many sheets as necessary) Examiner Name Not Yet Assigned Attorney Docket Number 09707.0013 Sheet of 1

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U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS						
Examiner	Cite	Document Number	Issue or	Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where	
Initials	No.1	Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶	
		JP 2000-024454	01-25-2000	Tokumasa et al.		Yes	
		JP 01-115432	05-08-1989	Yamamoto		Abstract	
		JP 60-172334	09-05-1985	Yamano		Abstract	
		JP 08-010552	01-16-1996	Oraku et al.		Abstract	
		JP 10-047598	02-20-1998	Makihara et al.		Yes	
		JP 2000-317302	11-21-2000			No	
		JP 08-12314	01-16-1996		·	No	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶		

Examiner	Date		
Signature	Considered		
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.